languages, keeping in view the publicity requirements, target readership, area, budgetary provisions and preferences indicated by the client Ministries/Departments.

Films and TV shows banned for obscenity

†3186. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the definition of obscenity as determined by the Ministry;

(b) the names of films and TV shows banned so far in pursuance of this definition; and

(c) the system to be developed to control obscene shows by different Government and private media in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Obscenity is not defined under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the Rules framed thereunder. It is also not defined under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995. However, all broadcasters are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder.

(b) No film or TV show as such has been banned. The telecast of the F.TV. Com India channel was prohibited for a specific period for showing an obscene programme 'Mid Night Hot'.

(c) The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) certifies films in accordance with the provisions under the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed thereunder. The guidelines *inter alia* stipulate the following:

— Human sensibilities are not offended by vulgarity, obscenity, or depravityes;
— Words with dual meaning as obviously cater to baser instincts are not allowed;
— Scenes degrading or denigrating women in any manner are not presented.

Scenes showing sexual perversions shall be avoided and if such matters are germane to the theme, they shall be reduced to the minimum and no details are shown.

Regarding television, the Ministry has constituted an Inter Ministerial Committee (IMC) to look into the specific complaints regarding violation of Programme and Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed thereunder. The Committee gives its recommendations regarding violation occurred and penalties to be imposed on TV channels for these violations.

Documentary films on River Valley Development in N. E. States

†3187. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of documentary films proposal, showing river valley development in North-Eastern States, were received during the last five years and action taken thereon;

(b) the names of proposals accepted and rejected out of them alongwith reasons therefor;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi